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SPLITTING PALM FOR FOOD IN THE MARKET: RIO DE JANEIRO

(See Bulletin No. 1)

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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Brazil: Giant of South America

BIGGEST of all South American countries, Brazil has just come through the biggest of the recent series of revolutions which have swept the continent south of the Caribbean.

Among the republics that elect their rulers by direct vote of the people, Brazil is the largest. It exceeds the United States of America (exclusive of Alaska) in area by a quarter of a million square miles. It is larger than the entire continent of Australia.

Another "United States"

In its own part of the world Brazil's position is even more outstanding. It occupies almost half of the area of South America, and its population is well in excess of that of the other twelve countries of the continent taken together. Its boundaries touch ten of those countries; only Chile and Ecuador do not have a Brazilian border.

Yet despite its size, little is known of the country by the North American. Even its real name is unfamiliar: Estados Unidos do Brasil—spelled with an "s," not a "z."

The United States of Brazil consists of twenty states, whereas smaller United States of America is made up of forty-eight. Naturally, therefore, the average Brazilian unit is larger. Three of Brazil's states are bigger than Texas, two of them more than twice as big.

A glance at a map of Brazil shows the smaller states crowded into the blunt northeastern point. But even the tiniest of the Brazilian states to be found there—Sergipe—is more than six and a half times the size of Rhode Island. The next smallest—Brazil's Delaware—is the size of five Delawares.

Owns Longest Piece of Equator

Location gives Brazil the Western Hemisphere's largest tropical area. It owns a greater segment of the Equator than any country in the world and contains the world's greatest river. Its eastern shoreline reaches closer to the Old World than any other land in the Americas. Because of this fact, frequent airplane flights have been made between Brazil and Africa.

The great Republic stands out because of its products. And the greatest of these is coffee. The plant, originally from Ethiopia (Abyssinia), was introduced into Brazil from French Guiana 300 years ago. Gradually it found its true home on the uplands of southeastern Brazil and has flourished amazingly. Saõ Paulo is the leading coffee state. Brazil furnishes more than three-fourths of the world's coffee, and of this Sao Paulo grows 70 per cent. Most of the rest is grown in the neighboring states of Minas Geraes, Espirito Santo, and Rio de Janeiro. In 1928, Brazil produced more than nineteen million sacks of coffee, each weighing 132 pounds—more than a pound apiece for every one on earth. About half of the average Brazilian coffee crop goes to the United States of America.

Brazil has managed to hold first place in coffee production, and no country seems likely to wrest it from her. But in other key products which the Republic once controlled, her record has not been so fortunate. She has seen outside

© *Photograph from Harriet Chalmers Adams*

THIS IS THE FINEST PALM AVENUE IN EXISTENCE

Mangue Canal and Avenue with the quadruple rows of royal palms, Rio de Janeiro (See Bulletin No. 1).

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Why a Letter Should Not Be Addressed "Russia"

A LETTER addressed to Russia may make a longer journey than the sender expects.

The name may be right, the street address may be perfectly correct, but when that letter reaches the border it may be turned back because it is addressed to "Russia." When this happens the letter retraces its journey through Poland and Germany to Hamburg, and is placed on board a steamer for the United States.

"Russia" Sensitive about Name

If the sender's name and address are on the envelope or in the letter, the New York dead letter office will return it. If the dead letter office opens the envelope and finds no more identification than, "much love and many kisses, Mary," it is resealed, the "Russia" in the address crossed out, and the official title "U. S. S. R." substituted. Then the letter starts another Atlantic voyage.

The U. S. S. R. (or U. R. S. S.), the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, is very particular about its name and has long threatened to turn back mail addressed to its imperial predecessor, Russia. Turkey is equally concerned about spelling. Since the Turkish Government expects its people to learn a whole new alphabet, it seems to consider that the least foreigners can do is to learn to spell rightly the names of the Turkish cities.

Now It Is "Istanbul"

A letter addressed to Constantinople may suffer the same fate that threatens a letter addressed to Russia. Istanbul is the proper name, and Turkey now insists that the whole world use it.

The new countries and governments of Europe arose from the wave of nationalism that followed the World War. One method of expressing nationalism was the revival of native names, or, in the case of U. S. S. R., the suppression of names with Tsarist associations

One and all, they have asked the world to follow their new labels. Therefore, a person addressing a letter to Russia, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Czechoslovakia, Jugoslavia, Rumania, Albania, Turkey or Ireland would do well to check the current town and country designations.

Many Estonia Names Changed

The Post Office Department frequently publishes lists of the preferred names. Recently it announced changes for Estonia: Tallinn, and not Reval; Tartu, and not Dorpat; Rakvere and not Wesenberg; Paide and not Weissenstein, etc.

The National Geographic Society spent three years in preparing its new map of Europe, containing official spellings of all place names.

Bulletin No. 2, December 15, 1930.

countries, one after another, forge far ahead of her in the production of cotton, sugar, cacao and rubber. But Brazil still produces large crops of each. Her cotton, sugar, and cacao are largely used at home. Because "wild" rubber from the Amazon Valley has special uses which the plantation rubber of the Far East cannot supply, Brazil still exports thousands of tons of rubber annually, valued at between ten and twenty millions of dollars.

Constitution Like Ours

From its name to its constitution, the United States of Brazil has been patterned after the United States of America. Much the same powers were granted the federal government in the two countries, and about the same rights were reserved by the states. One difference is that in Brazil the states reserved the right to place export duties on their products. The plan has not worked well, and was a factor in causing the loss to Brazil of her leadership in rubber production.

Physically, Brazil can best be understood by comparison with the United States of America. While no part of our country touches the Tropics, nine-tenths of the southern republic lies within the Torrid Zone. Our United States extends entirely across its continent and has long coast lines on both the Atlantic and Pacific; the United States of Brazil extends more than two-thirds of the distance from the Atlantic seaboard across its continent, but is fenced away from the Pacific by the high wall of the Andes Mountains.

The necessary dependence of Brazil upon only one ocean has shaped the country's development. Pioneers who went inland from the Atlantic could not count on opening a new doorway to world commerce in another direction. They were dependent for supplies and world contacts on the shore which they had left, and the farther they went from it the greater became their difficulties. This condition, among others, has worked against such a rapid development of the interior as came about in the United States of the north.

And so, 400 years after the colonization of the country began, the population, agriculture, developed wealth, and the active life of Brazil are concentrated in a strip of land extending less than 400 miles from the Atlantic. Nineteen-twentieths of Brazil's forty million people live in this zone.

Bulletin No. 1, December 15, 1930.

Note: For additional reference material about Brazil see "Through Brazil to the Summit of Mount Roraima," *National Geographic Magazine*, November, 1930; "Rio de Janeiro, In the Land of Lure," September, 1920; and "Exploring the Valley of the Amazon in a Hydroplane," April, 1926.

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To Let: One Natural History Museum!

DID you ever hear of a Colossochelys Atlas? That is just another way of describing the largest land tortoise that ever lived. The shell of one found in India has just been placed in a New York museum. In its prime it was about the size of one of the new midget automobiles.

The big fellow, however, has living relatives on the Galapagos Islands, west of South America, in the Pacific Ocean. The Galapagos belong to Ecuador, whose citizens have petitioned the Ecuadorian Congress to lease the islands to a foreign government.

Odd Assortment of Inhabitants

Picture a large, crumpled golf sock, two rough rectangular golf-course sand traps, and hundreds of badly chipped golf balls of various sizes, all greatly magnified and sprinkled about the Equator 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador and you will have a fair idea of the Galapagos, one of the world's queerest natural history museums.

The Galapagos were found 400 years ago when a Spanish bishop, while sailing from Panama to Peru, was blown upon one of the islands. Later the islands were peopled by an assortment of pirates and buccaneers, who preyed upon Pacific shipping, and by Ecuador convicts. American whalers used the islands as a post office. Crews from the Atlantic ports deposited mail in the rocks above Post Office Bay for whaling crews already in the Pacific.

Scientists Like the Place

Before the Panama Canal was dug the Galapagos were isolated from shipping lanes. Now they are near the Panama-Australia routes, but the islands' lava-strewn mountainsides and their tiny "villages" have not stirred the curiosity of most sightseers. Most of the 500 inhabitants are Spanish-speaking Ecuadorians like those seen in any port of Ecuador. The "villages" consist of thatched huts and small wooden buildings clustered near the few sugar, coffee and cotton plantations in the small areas which lava rock has not completely covered. Only two of the islands are inhabited.

To scientists the archipelago is a huge workshop with an area greater than Delaware. Charles Darwin visited the islands in 1835. He found animal and plant life that was unknown to science. During the past ninety-five years some of the world's famous scientists have stumbled through thorny undergrowth, dodged the vicious spines of huge cactus plants, and scaled lava rocks in the arid coastal zones. They also have penetrated the more luxuriant growth in the mountains, where there is greater moisture in the atmosphere, and descended into some of the Galapagos craters.

Two Thousand Craters

The archipelago is of volcanic origin. There are upwards of 2,000 craters on the islands; each island has at least one. Since 1925 several eruptions have occurred, but most of the craters are cold.

Galapagos wild life is tamer than the dogs, cats, goats, pigs, donkeys and

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THE TRANSITION PERIOD IN THE TURKISH LANGUAGE

Moving-picture theaters announce their attractions in posters which are printed in Arabic script and in "New Turkish," as well as in French.

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Andorra: Modern Survivor of the Feudal States

FROM the ninth to the fourteenth century much of Europe was cut up into thousands of little feudal states.

In Andorra, tiny mountain republic on the Spanish-French border, one of these ancient states survives, but signs point to the breaking up of an old order, jealously guarded since 1278.

Father's rule is being questioned. Under the Andorra feudal system, sons, even though married, have no voice in public affairs as long as their fathers are living. Modern sons, especially those forty to fifty years of age with families, are beginning to ask if they are not old enough to speak for themselves.

Only the Valleys Inhabited

Andorra lies on the crest of the Pyrenees like a little wedge driven between France and Spain. East and west it extends for 17 miles; its greatest north and south width is 18 miles. In the little republic's 191 square miles of territory dwell 5,250 inhabitants.

The statement that Andorra consists of 191 square miles is true but misleading. Only a series of valleys are inhabited, although in summer cattle are pastured on the mountainsides. Even the floors of the valleys are more than a mile above sea level. The peaks reach heights of more than 10,000 feet.

Six villages, and about them six cantons, constitute the political units of the little republic. Each canton sends four councilors, chosen from heads of households, to the national legislative body. The twenty-four delegates select one of their number to serve as First Syndic, the republic's "President." A second Syndic serves as "Vice-President."

Simple Form of Government

The utmost simplicity marks the government of Andorra. Most of the councilors arrive on horseback. On the ground floor of the old stone Council Hall their horses are stabled at the expense of the state. Above the stable the Council meets, and on the same floor the members sleep and are fed by the state. As salary, each councilor receives a few cents per day during sessions.

There are few taxes in Andorra. Incomes are assessed for a small amount, and from this fund an annual tribute is paid to France and to the Prince Bishop of Urgel, in Spain; for Andorra has existed since 1278 under the joint but light rule of the state to the north and the bishopric to the south. France maintains in Andorra a delegate who runs the schools, posts and telegraphs.

Cattle raising is one of the chief activities of the Andorreans. But there are other means of livelihood. A rank sort of tobacco grows in the valleys and is made into cigars and cigarettes in a factory in Andorra village. These find their way—not always through the customs channels—into France, bearing labels that give them origins from Virginia to the Canary Islands and Gibraltar.

Along with the tobacco products, many other articles of commerce are smuggled into France via the strings of pack mules that are to be met almost any night on Andorra's trails.

cattle which were lost or deserted on the islands. These "visitors" have increased in numbers and are a nuisance to the inhabitants.

Sea lions poke their heads above the waves and startle strangers with their unfriendly bark, and there are few animals more ugly than the water iguana, a giant lizard which swims about the islands' quiet bays.

Brilliant colored fish dart through the clear green water of Galapagos coves; below them the white sand is aflame with colored shells. The layman can also appreciate the animal life of the Galapagos Islands for moths, snakes, spiders, and small lizards display Nature's artistry in color and design of markings. There are birds with red bills, birds with red eyes, birds with green feet and legs, and birds with small wings which cannot fly (flightless cormorants).

A ride on a giant tortoise's back is as much a feature of a visit to Galapagos as a sleigh ride down a dry, cobblestone hill of Funchal is a feature of a visit to the Madeiras. The group got its name from the giant tortoise; the Spanish word for tortoise is galapago. When the islands were found thousands of these reptiles crawled over their sun-swept hillsides. Many graced the dinner tables of pirate ships and American whaling vessels and many were captured for their oil by an Ecuador company. Now, wild dogs, cats, and pigs destroy eggs and newly born tortoises and the reptiles face extinction.

Bulletin No. 3, December 15, 1930.

Note: For supplementary reading on the Galapagos Islands consult "The Dream Ship," *National Geographic Magazine*, January, 1921.

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THE RICKETY LANDING STAGE IN WRECK BAY, GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

The crew of a dinghy is completing the job of transferring 300 gallons of doubtful-looking fluid from the beach reservoir to a ship offshore by means of kerosene tins. This water transformed itself into an "aquarium" before the ship reached the Marquesas Islands!

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A Toy Shop Grown up

MUNICH, the great industrial city of southeastern Germany, has a new museum which is one vast toy circus where both grown-ups and children come to see the whirring, boiling, steaming, clattering machines of our present-day life.

It is a toy shop grown up, for the playthings are realistic duplicates of bridges, trains, radios, airplanes, and other objects to be found in ordinary museums, but the difference here is that most of the Munich exhibits are in action.

American visitors would feel at home. There are models to show what makes the wheels of a popular American car go around; one of Bell's telephones; an Edison phonograph; an early Wright flying machine; a model McCormick reaper; scale reproductions of the Brooklyn Bridge, the Panama Canal; a Pullman car, and even an old-fashioned American cistern, with real water in it.

Chicago Adopts Plan

Munich's museum showing, with pictures and moving models, man's rise from barbarism, has been such a success that Chicago's new industrial museum will be built largely on the German plan.

Six thousand visitors each week day and 12,000 on Sunday throng the long halls of the museum building, which sits on a small island in the River Isar. Nine miles of exhibits survey all the major lines of science and industry.

A Miniature Solar System

In one planetarium or star chamber, a sightseer stands and watches the sun, moon and planets glide through a darkened imitation heaven. In another he rides on a moving platform, which gives him the feeling of being a giant observer riding on our solar system as it runs like a pack of hounds through the star universe in the artificial museum sky.

One can walk into almost any past age in the German Museum. Here is a German scythe-making shop of the seventeenth century, brought down from the Black Forest; walls, roof, forge, tools, furnishings and all, even life-size workmen in costume. If one opens another door he finds himself in a sixteenth century alchemist's shop, surrounded by curious old bottles and retorts used in the vain attempt to make gold. The eighteenth century druggist shop is there, too, with not the slightest suggestion of a soda fountain, or sandwich, or best seller; just shelf on shelf of pungent drugs.

Some Classics of Science

At another point the visitor enters a rock-lined shaft where he can step in and operate a rude treadmill that Agricola trod in the Dark Ages to pump water out of his shallow mine.

Hertz' wave apparatus that opened the doors to radio, Ohm's, Ampere's and Galvani's electrical apparatus, an early Morse telegraph, Lilienthal's glider, Röntgen's tubes, and Bunsen's original devices that changed science, industry and civilization, are on view. Wherever possible, managers of the Munich Museum have placed duplicate materials near the original apparatus of a famous inventor,

© *Photograph from José B. Alemany*

SMUGGLERS FLEE AT NIGHT ACROSS THE BRIDGE OF SANT ANTONI, ANDORRA

It is said that on this bridge Charlemagne and the Count of Urgel signed the treaty of liberty and privileges of Andorra, tiny mountain republic wedged between Spain and France.

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inviting the guest to try for himself the experiments which are classics of science.

Out in the garden "Puffing Billy," an early English steam engine, travels a brief route under its own steam while the awkward arms of an old windmill, moved to Munich, turn in the wind. On a high tower a huge hand turns over a dial that tells, not time, but the barometer reading. So every Munich resident can be his own weather forecaster by glancing at the Museum.

In one room, bent like racers toeing the mark, a line of model plowmen stand, their plows pointing into real soil. At one end is a sorry-looking old fellow pulling a crooked stick; next, a skin-clad peasant who has hitched two buffaloes to his stick; then a Roman who has mounted his rude plow on wheels; next, farmers with the first iron-tipped plows; and so on down to the latest tractor-drawn gang plows.

Bulletin No. 5, December 15, 1930.

Note: German industries are described in "Renascent Germany," in the *National Geographic Magazine*, December, 1928. See also "Danube, Highway of Races," December, 1929; and "The Story of the Ruhr," May, 1922, in the *National Geographic Magazine*.

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ALWAYS, SOME WORK THAT OTHERS MAY PLAY

German toys are sold throughout the civilized world. Their manufacture and sale give work to thousands. Each year makers of mechanical toys strive to produce the season's best seller. The new industrial museum in the city of Munich, while not a play-shop, is filled with working toys of all the great machines of our age.